

## Brochis Catfish



Pic: The Emerald Catfish (*Brochis splendens*) is a popular aquarium fish that is ideally suited to a community tank, as long as the other fish are around the same size.

### Species

There are 3 different species of *Brochis* :

- Giant Brochis (*Brochis britskii*),
- Brochis or Emerald catfish (*Brochis splendens*)
- Hognosed Brochis (*Brochis multiradiatus*) which has 17 dorsal fin rays and a longer nose than the rest of them.

### Natural Range

South American rivers and waterways.

### Maximum Size and Longevity

These fish can grow to 11cm and have been known to live for up to 8 years if kept in the right conditions.

### Water Quality

They prefer slightly acidic water

- Temperature: 21°C - 26°C.
- pH: 6.0—7.5
- General Hardness: 50—150 ppm.

### Feeding

These catfish are voracious eaters and will eagerly compete with other fish for food. They are omnivorous and will eat basically anything including live food like live worms and brine shrimp and flakes and pellets.

### Compatibility

They are a peaceful and calm fish and very suited to a community tank as long as the other fish are around the same size. They should be kept in schools of 4 or more. These catfish will mix well with any other types of fish including Swords, Mollies, Platys, Rainbow fish, Danios, Angelfish, and even Discus fish.

### Colour and Varieties

They are a green coloured fish looking very much like a larger, fat *Corydoras* catfish with large barbells on their mouths and large armour like scales.

### Sexing

The males will have a pointier dorsal fin in some cases and be more slender than the females. The females during breeding season will have plumper bellies due to holding eggs. Emerald catfish have been bred successfully in aquariums.

### General Information

They are a very versatile fish that mixes well with most other species. They prefer planted aquariums with plenty of hiding places.